

Message Text

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14-10

ACTION DOTE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5904

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE OTTAWA 0948

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELTN, EWWT, CA

SUBJECT: GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE AND RELATED MATTERS

DOT FOR UNDERSECREATRY BARNUM FROM AMBASSADOR PORTER

REF: STATE 051366

1. I GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR BRINGING ME UP TO DATE ON YOUR COMMUNICATIONS WITH CANADIAN OFFICIALS REGARDING THE GREAT LAKES PILOTAGE PROBLEM. I HOPE YOU WILL CONTINUE TO KEEP ME CURRENTLY INFORMED. I AND MY STAFF ARE IN REGULAR TOUCH WITH THOSE WORKING ON THE PROBLEM ON THE OTTAWA END IN THE COURSE OF OUR NORMAL DUTIES. YOU CAN READILY APPRECAITE THAT WE ARE ABLE TO FULFILL OUR RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF U.S. INTERESTS IN CANADA MUCH MORE EFFECTIVELY WHEN WE RECEIVE TIMELY BRIEFINGS FROM WASHINGTON ON DEVELOPMENTS RELATING TO SENSITIVE ISSUES AND DO NOT HAVE TO RELY ON THE NOT-ENTIRELY-DISINTERESTED RECITALS OF OUR CANADIAN GOVERNMENT CONTACTS.

2. WHILE THE PILOTAGE QUESTION IS PERHAPS THE MOST SENSITIVE BILATERAL ISSUE WITH CANADA INVOLVING YOUR DEPARTMENT AT PRESENT, THERE ARE OTHERS THAT CAN QUICKLY ASSUME A SIMILAR SENSITIVITY. A GOOD EXAMPLE IS THE ARCTIC NAVIGATION QUESTION WHICH WAS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS LAST WEEK BETWEEN A COAST GUARD

DELEGATION HEADED BY ADMIRAL PRICE AND A GROUP IN THE CANADIAN MARINE ADMINISTRATION. WE LEARNED ABOUT THE SCHEDULED DISCUSSIONS PURELY BY CHANCE JUST A DAY BEFORE THEY TOOK PLACE AND THE ONLY REPORT WE HAVE HAD ON THE OUTCOME WAS A BRIEF PHONE CALL FROM ADMIRAL PRICE TO MY TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER.

3. WE HAVE A GOOD AND REGULAR CONTACT WITH MANY ELEMENTS OF DOT -- FAA IS A PRIME EXAMPLE -- AND WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO INTERPOSE OURSELVES UNNECESSARILY INTO THE USEFUL TECHNICAL-LEVEL DISCUSSIONS THAT OCCUR ON A REGULAR BASIS BETWEEN U.S. AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS. I HOPE, HOWEVER, THAT YOU WILL ENDEAVOR TO ENSURE THAT ALL ELEMENTS IN DOT, INCLUDING THE VARIOUS MODAL ADMINISTRATIONS, ARE AWARE OF THE DESIRABILITY OF KEEPING THE EMBASSY INFORMED OF THEIR ACTIVITIES INVOLVING CANADA IN ORDER THAT I MAY PROVIDE MAXIMUM SUPPORT IN THE CONTEXT OF THE TOTAL MANAGEMENT OF U.S. RELATIONS WITH CANADA.

4. AT FINANCE MINISTER TURNER'S LUNCHEON FOR SECRETARY SIMON ON MARCH 12 I HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY ESSENCE OF PARAGRAPH 3 OF YOUR MESSAGE (REFTEL) TO EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER MACEACHEN. I EMPHASIZED THAT OUR GRATIFICATION THAT SOMETHING HAD BEEN WORKED OUT FOR 1975 DID NOT INDICATE WE WERE FULLY SATISFIED. MACEACHEN SAID HE WAS PLEASED ABOUT THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS AND HOPED THAT A MORE PERMANENT SOLUTION COULD BE FOUND SOON.
PORTER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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